



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Tetsuya WATANABE

Appl. No. 09/981,807

Confirmation No. 7561

Filed: 10/19/01

For: Shaft Sealing Apparatus

Art Unit: 3626

Examiner: Vishal A. Patel

Atty. Docket No. 36595-176071

Customer No.



26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Response To Office Action

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In the Office Action mailed February 24, 2003, the Examiner has required an election of species which the Examiner lists as species I, Figure 1; species II, Figure 2; species III, Figure 3; species IV, Figures 4-5; species V, Figure 6; and species VI, Figure 7. In response to this election of species requirement the applicant elects species I represented by Figure 1. The claims readable on this species are claims 1-5.

The applicant traverses the requirement for election as represented by the Examiner because Figures 2 and 3 are not separate species from Figure 1. Figure 2 is a subcombination of Figure 1 and Figure 3 is another species of the subcombination shown in Figure 2. Figures 4 and 5 are not a separate species from Figure 1. Figure 4 illustrates a preparing step performed by the shaft sealing

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apparatus shown in Figure 1, and Figure 5 illustrates installing steps performed by the shaft sealing apparatus shown in Figure 1. Figures 6 and 7 are separate species from the species shown in Figure 1.

In the Office Action the Examiner has indicated that no claims are generic. However, claims 1, 2 and 5 are considered generic to all of the disclosed species.

Respectfully submitted,

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